

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS FLORENCE 02321

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: MAY/JUNE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS

REF: ROME 8399

1. ALTHOUGH LESS DRAMATIC THAN ELSEWHERE IN ITALY, THE SHIFT TOWARDS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN THE MAY 14-15 ELECTIONS IN TUSCANY AND EMILIA-ROMAGNA REFLECTED THE NATIONAL SHIFT IN THIS DIRECTION. FOLLOWING CHARTS GIVE RESULTS FOR THESE TWO REGIONS (LESS PROVINCES OF PARMA AND PIACENZA WHICH ARE IN MILAN CONSULAR DISTRICT). IN TUSCANY FIGURES REFER TO THE 8 TOWNS USING THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM AND THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA FIGURES REFER TO THE 2 TOWNS USING THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM (APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN EACH OF THESE TWO REGIONS). WE BELIEVE THE USE OF THESE FIGURES ALLOWS BEST COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ELECTIONS BECAUSE ELECTORAL LISTS ARE MORE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PREVIOUS ELECTIONS PERMITTING SIMILAR COMPETITION AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES. MANY OF SMALLER TOWNS USE COMBINED LISTS THUS NOT PERMITTING EXAMINATION OF VOTE BY PARTY LIST.

2. TUSCANY: 1978 1976 1972

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DC	33.7	31.7	29.5
PCI	44.0	46.0	42.9
PSI	12.1	11.1	14.1
PSDI	2.3	2.1	4.1
PRI	3.0	2.9	3.6
PLI	.8	.5	.8
MSI	2.8	3.8	5.0

DN	.3	-	-
DP	1.2	1.4	-
PR	-	.5	-

3. EMILIA-ROMAGNA: 1978 1976 1972

DC	37.4	34.9	33.3
PCI	37.8	40.1	38.8
PSI	11.9	10.4	11.6
PSDI	5.3	6.4	11.1
PRI	1.9	2.2	-
PLI	1.4	1.1	1.5
MSI	3.0	3.5	3.7
DN	.6	-	-
DP	.7	.7	-
PR	-	.7-	

4. AS THE ABOVE TABLES INDICATE, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE THE MAJOR WINNERS IN TUSCANY WITH AN INCREASE OF 4.2 PERCENT OVER 1972 AND AN INCREASE OF 2 PERCENT OVER 1976. IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA THE SAME IS TRUE WITH A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INCREASE OF 4.1 PERCENT OVER 1972 AND OF 2.5 PERCENT OVER 1976. THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONSIDERED THE MAJOR LOSERS SINCE IN TUSCANY THEY LOST 2 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 1976, EVEN THOUGH THEY GAINED 1.1 PERCENT AS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPARED WITH 1972. THE SAME IS TRUE IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA WHERE THEY LOST 2.3 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 1976 AND ALSO LOST ONE PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 1972. THE SOCIALISTS ARE TAKING PRIDE IN THEIR ONE PERCENT GAIN IN TUSCANY AND THEIR 1.5 PERCENT GAIN IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA AS COMPARED WITH 1976. AS COMPARED WITH 1972 SOCIALISTS LOST 2 PERCENT IN TUSCANY AND GAINED 0.3 PERCENT IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA.

5. DESPITE SMILES OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND SOCIALISTS AND GRIM VISAGE OF COMMUNISTS, WE BELIEVE MAY 14-15 ELECTIONS OF QUESTIONABLE SIGNIFICANCE AS POLITICAL BAROMETER SINCE ONLY 103,000 VOTERS PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGURES CONTAINED PARAS TWO AND THREE. GORDON

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